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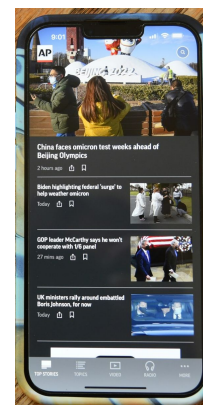
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Connecting

Feb. 14, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Feb. 14, 2023, and

Happy Valentine's Day!

Today's issue brings you Valentine's Day notes from two of your colleagues.

Margaret Callahan sent this newspaper clipping photo of her mother Anne from when Anne was working at and photographed at AP for Valentine's Day back in 1943. She came across the 80-year-old clipping when she found it among her father's keepsakes after he passed away in 2000. "What I know is my mother Anne was a 17-year-old copy kid at AP at the time," said Margaret, who was confidential secretary in the AP's Washington bureau from 1976-83. "Happy Valentine's Day 1943 ... my mother with the caption, 'Pin up girl Anne in a photo-finish Valentine set for her Army beau.' Enjoy the sentiment of years gone by."



Norm Abelson brings us this poem, titled "To Friendship & To Love":

I've been writing Valentine poems ever since I was a little kid,
and guess I've used every corny rhyme, at least it seems I did.
So you'd think I'd let this year's observance silently go by.
But, what the heck....I'm going to give it another try.

Valentine's Day has arrived here once more,
and excuse me for being an optimist to the core,
so despite these dark times, below and above,
I'll raise a grateful glass to friendship and to love.

My everlasting thanks to that still unknown force
who taught us friendship and love should guide our life's course.
After all, they're the awesome things that make our time worth living.
So those two things this holiday I'll joyfully be getting and giving.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP retiree Kathy Gannon namesake for award to women journalists

CFWIJ Kathy Gannon Legacy Award



The Coalition For Women In Journalism is thrilled to announce the CFWIJ Kathy Gannon Legacy Award to celebrate a great correspondent who broke many barriers in our industry while covering some of the most critical and globally critical stories of her time with deep compassion and integrity.



Meet Our Award Winners

for the CFWIJ Kathy Gannon Legacy Award



Zahra Nader

Joanna Chiu

The inaugural award goes to two outstanding journalists who are not only worthy winners of this recognition, but are marking their own legacy. Both of these journalists have been selected because in addition to their intrepid courageous reporting from difficult countries, their work demonstrates a sense of duty and a devotion to community.



Kathy Gannon - former AP News Director for Pakistan and Afghanistan - I am blown away by this honor to establish an award in my name and to see the first recipients to be such amazing women journalists, committed to the challenges of telling the difficult stories. It is an incredible privilege for me and for the award to be established by the Coalition For Women in Journalism, and its tireless founder Kiran Nazish blows me away. The CFWIJ and Kiran Nazish have championed women journalists and the often-marginalized LGBTQ community with such passion and dedication. I have such deep respect for both the organization and Kiran.

It is an added honor that the award will be given annually at the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, another organization I deeply admire.

This year's award will be presented Wednesday in Toronto and goes to two distinguished journalists who have dedicated their lives to craft and beyond. The unstoppable @ZahraYusufi who never stopped telling about Afghanistan and the intrepid @joannachiu who reported on China despite the risks.

Zahra Nader is an Afghan Canadian journalist and editor-in-chief of Zan Times, a newly launched media outlet that covers human rights in Afghanistan with a focus on women, the LGBT community and environmental issues.

Joanna Chiu is a B.C.-based journalist covering national and international news for the Star. A former correspondent in Hong Kong and Beijing, and a graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism, she is the author of "China Unbound," which examines the global political impacts of China's rise.

The Valentine Day Massacre

Lyle Price - Feb. 14, 1967, is a date that was coined by San Francisco AP staffer Leonard Milliman as The Valentine Day Massacre when that AP bureau had its news staff cut in half - and the news staff at Los Angeles was approximately doubled by being increased to 30 or so staffers. I knew of the FX figure because I was an FX hire in mid-1964 (although at the time, I was in Sacramento on a nine-month legislative session assignment after having transferred to LA from FX in April of 1966.)

I bring this to Connecting's attention mention because I am one of the few one-time San Fran AP staffers still alive to recollect FX of the pre-"massacre" era and I wish to commemorate some of the outstanding veteran news persons that I knew when I served in FX back then. I have had in mind to write a profile about that bureau's very distinctive atmosphere in the mid-60s and take this occasion to at least note some of its more memorable types.

First of all, there were four FX staffers that landed in Los Angeles after the FX cutback: Roy Roberts, Jack Stevenson, Cal Werner and Bill Waugh. The last named had been bureau chief in FX and assumed that position in LA. All of them were in the over-40 age group; every news person in FX below 40 either took a transfer to somewhere else or left AP.

These are the FX characters that in my time there I found most memorable:

1. Leonard Milliman, the man I would come to say wrote the story of the World War II Pacific theater. It was his job throughout the war I was told to take the daily individual battle stories filed throughout the Pacific theater of war and sent to FX by teletype from Honolulu AP after arriving in Hawaii. Milliman also founded the Wire Service Guild and was its first president.

2. Paul Lee, the legendary long-time FX news editor who like Milliman had been working at AP before I was born. I was told he had been an AP reporter in Italy during WW II. I was hired after he showed me a cabinet drawer stuffed with what he said were applications to work at FX from just the current year (it was then July). Then he looked at me and smiled after I had finished AP's tests and said he was "damned tired of waiting to fill the vacancy that we've got."

3. Bill Waugh. Among other things, he had been a war correspondent for AP in the Korean War. About the most memorable thing I recollect about him is that he put a staffer with a beard in FX permanently on the overnight and did the same thing to a staffer for the same reason in LA.

When he lectured the FX staffer about the undesirability of beards, legend has it that the guy purportedly had this off-the-wall response: "What this bureau needs is a

coffee pot." What I know for sure is that when I started at FX there was no coffee pot and when I left there was one.

4. Pete Eldred. This was a hard-core conservative if there ever was one -- and I'd say the right one to have been on the PIO staff of Gen. George Patten as he said he had been in WW II.

5. Roy Roberts. The politest newsperson I have ever known. He always said "thank you" when a story was turned in when he ran the night news desk in San Fran. When I was a rookie, he helped more than anybody else did. He also had been a war correspondent for AP in Korea.

6. Cal Werner. A career news staffer on the broadcast desk both in FX and LA whose father had also been a career staffer, he told me. He had a heart of gold.

A final thought: I think that the persons that one works with in the news business rank at least as important to a news person both personally and professionally as do the stories that one is involved in as a reporter or editor.

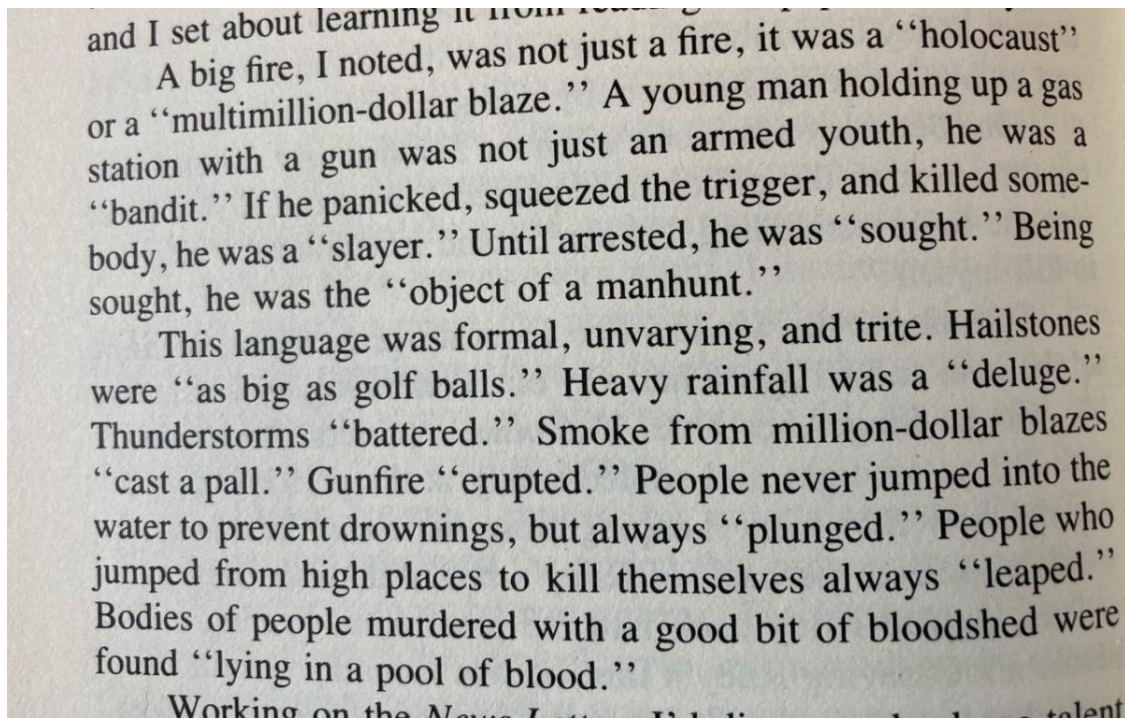
Journalism jargon? He bets Connecting colleagues know plenty

Mike Holmes - During the recent cold spell, I've been working my way through one of the stacks of books cluttering up the house. I came across "The Good Times," the late New York Times columnist Russell Baker's memoir of his early newspaper days. In it, he talks about starting his career at the Baltimore Sun and mastering newspaperese.

I shared this with a couple friends, and we started recalling newspaper cliches that no real person ever uses: solon (for legislators); cagers (basketball players); netters (tennis players); scofflaw (criminals); fete (elaborate party). I think most of those were the result of hot type makeup, with no way to shrink words to fit a one-column headline, but they took on a life of their own.

I'm guessing Connecting folks know a bunch more jargon.

Here's Baker's list from his days on the Sun police beat:



Joining AP in a relief role

[Dennis Kois](#) - My AP story began as a part-timer in the Milwaukee bureau.

I saw an AP job posting in the Journalism Dept office at U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where I was a student. It was the late 1960s, I called the number in the ad, was interviewed pretty casually by then-news editor Bob O'Meara, and got hired. Dion Henderson was COB.

I worked mostly Fridays and Saturdays to assist with high school and college sports scores and roundup stories.

Mike O'Brien was the sports editor, and set a great example for this rookie reporter.

Pete Seymour and Tim Curran were the top two news guys, and provided valuable lessons on a daily basis.

I graduated in 1971 and was hired on as a full-time AP reporter. Lots to learn, but a great way to learn it and a terrific addition to my resume.

After a few more years at AP, I departed to work in PR/Corporate Communications. WE Energies came first, then Johnson Controls.

My AP experience was a career builder, for sure. I wouldn't trade it.



AP mentions in Pulitzer-winning book 'The Race Beat'

George Erb - georb@seanet.com - teaches journalism at Western Washington University and is a former editor of the Puget Sound Business Journal in Seattle. Erb recently sent a note to his friend Connecting member John Brewer about AP mentions in "The Race Beat," which received the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for History:

George Erb - So I'm reading this fascinating book, "The Race Beat," by Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff (2006). It's about the press and its coverage of the civil rights movement beginning in the 1940s.

By the late 1950s, many newspaper editors in the South were frustrated, and at times furious, with the northern press in general and The Associated Press in particular.

They thought the northern press over-reported racial conflict in the South and under reported racial tensions in the North. (The northern press was also getting wise to the horrors of Jim Crow, but never mind.)

In 1959 the editors of nine newspapers in the South – all segregationists, in varying degrees – met at the former Henry Grady Hotel in Atlanta to solve their "bad press" problem. Among the editors was James J. Kilpatrick.

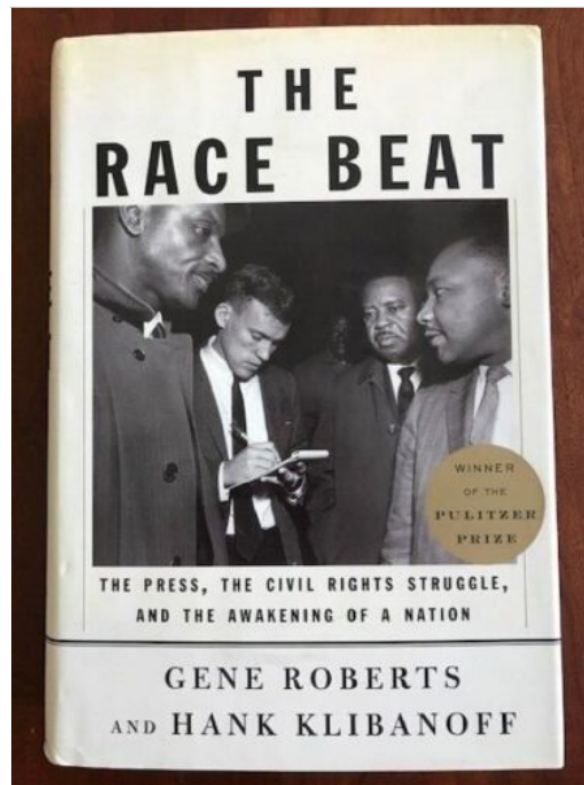
A news editor at the Charleston, South Carolina, News and Courier proposed infiltrating the wire editor and news editor jobs at prominent dailies in the North. In collaboration with their southern colleagues, the infiltrators would plant controversial stories in the northern press.

Southern editors who were part of the plan would react to and spread the stories in a 1950s version of "going viral."

They never put this plan into effect, but the sheer audacity of even considering it, and the brazen departure from professional ethics -- well, it takes your breath away.

The editors did agree on a more modest plan that partly consisted of pestering the AP for more coverage of racial problems in the North.

When a Black man was accused of raping a white girl in New York, one editor in Louisiana demanded from the AP a 2,000-word story with photos and sidebars.



He also urged the wire service to assign to the story one of its top reporters, a two-time Pulitzer winner. As if that were not enough, he insisted on daily installments until the case was resolved.

AP editors eventually moved a 400-word story, which quoted the police saying race had nothing to do with the crime. Several southern editors complained.

A few days later, Thomas Waring, the editor of the News and Courier, had lunch in New York with AP's executive editor, Alan Gould. Gould and his deputies, clearly annoyed, essentially told Waring and his southern colleagues to knock it off.

The conspiracy, such as it was, quietly died when the editors realized that their segregationist stance fell well short of unanimity among southern newspaper editors.

Ten years ago I would have thought, with some relief, how far we have come from those days. Today, I think we have not come so far after all.

His own Al Neuharth-AP story

Arnold Zeitlin – Bill Kaczor's story about Al Neuharth reminded me of my own Al Neuharth-AP story. When I was director in Hong Kong of the Freedom Forum's Asia office 1998-2001, Al was the esteemed founder of the organization. So when he and his family came to Asia on a visit, we put on a large show. I remember getting a directive on how to handle Al that included the advice that bananas stored for him in his hotel room had to be spotless. We accompanied him to Beijing where our party was the guest of the Communist Party mouthpiece Xinhua news agency at a lavish dinner at Xinhua headquarters. Al sat at a big round table next to the head of Xinhua; I sat opposite him across the table. The head of Xinhua complained that American journalists only showed China in a negative light -- and Al agreed they did a poor job of reporting from China. He then looked across the table at my expression his remarks provoked and said, "Of course, not the AP where Arnold used to work."

Print or digital – how you receive your news

Keith Robinson - I haven't subscribed to a daily newspaper since 2009.

I am no longer ashamed to admit to myself that I don't miss getting one. That feeling left me long ago.

Today, I get as much credible national and international news (and some state news) as I can read and watch from many other sources every day, night and weekend and for as long as I want. I am still a news junkie, probably even more so now.

I do get two local weeklies delivered to my mailbox. Both are free. I get all the local news I need from them. (I even write for one of them as a freelancer in retirement.) Actually, there is no other way for me to get local news because the nearest city with

television stations is 70 miles away, and I never see any news from my hinterlands on their newscasts.

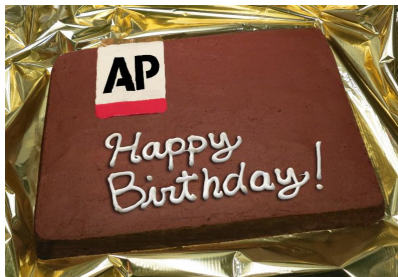
I do worry about the future of local papers. If my two die, where will I find out what's going on in my community – the good and the bad? From the ramblings, rumors and inaccuracies on social media? From a next-door neighbor who heard it from someone else? Not very promising.

Fifteen years ago, I thought publishers must be longing for the day when they could make enough money from their digital operations so they could stop pouring money into a news "product" that quickly was becoming a vestige of the past. No doubt they still are working toward that day.

I truly am saddened that newspapers are disappearing. But it is inevitable, and I made the transition to online. I hope local newspapers successfully make that transition at some point and have viable newsrooms again.

Then they will become known simply as news organizations.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jim Bagby](#)

[Bob Greene](#)

Stories of interest

Reporter's dismissal exposes political pressures on West Virginia Public Broadcasting (NPR)

DAVID FOLKENFLIK

Late last fall, West Virginia Public Broadcasting's Amelia Ferrell Knisely reported one story after another about allegations that people with disabilities were abused in facilities run by the state.

The state agency Knisely was covering demanded that one of her key stories be fully retracted. While her coverage remains on West Virginia Public Broadcasting's website, Knisely is gone. She says she was told the decision came from the station's chief executive.

Interviews with 20 people with direct knowledge of events at West Virginia Public Broadcasting indicate Knisely's involuntary departure from her position as a part-time reporter was not an aberration but part of a years-long pattern of mounting pressure on the station from Gov. Jim Justice's administration and some state legislators.

"We all knew that our jobs could go at any moment if politicians fought that hard enough," says former West Virginia Public Broadcasting reporter and producer Roxy Todd. "Gov. Justice's presence was always looming over us."

Since 2017, politicians have sought to eliminate state funding. The governor appointed partisans hostile to public broadcasting to key oversight positions. And the station's chief executive has intervened repeatedly in journalistic decisions.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Marina Ovsyannikova: Anti-war Russian journalist recounts dramatic escape (BBC)

By Lucy Williamson
BBC Paris correspondent

One October night, a week before she was due to face trial for criticising Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russian journalist Marina Ovsyannikova took her young daughter and fled for the border.

She was wearing an electronic bracelet, and was meant to be under house arrest.

"My lawyer said 'flee, flee - they're going to put you in prison'," she said at a press conference in Paris on Friday.

She left Moscow at the start of one weekend last year, when she judged that police would be less active, and changed vehicle seven times before approaching the border on foot.

"Our [last] vehicle got stuck in the mud," she told me, "and we had no mobile phone coverage - we tried to find our way by the stars. It was a very dangerous and stressful escape."

They wandered for hours near the border, she said, hiding from border patrols, before successfully making it across.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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India's Proud Tradition of a Free Press Is at Risk (New York Times)

By The Editorial Board

The editorial board is a group of opinion journalists whose views are informed by expertise, research, debate and certain longstanding values. It is separate from the newsroom.

The misuse of their powers to intimidate, censor, silence or punish independent news media is an alarming hallmark of populist and authoritarian leaders.

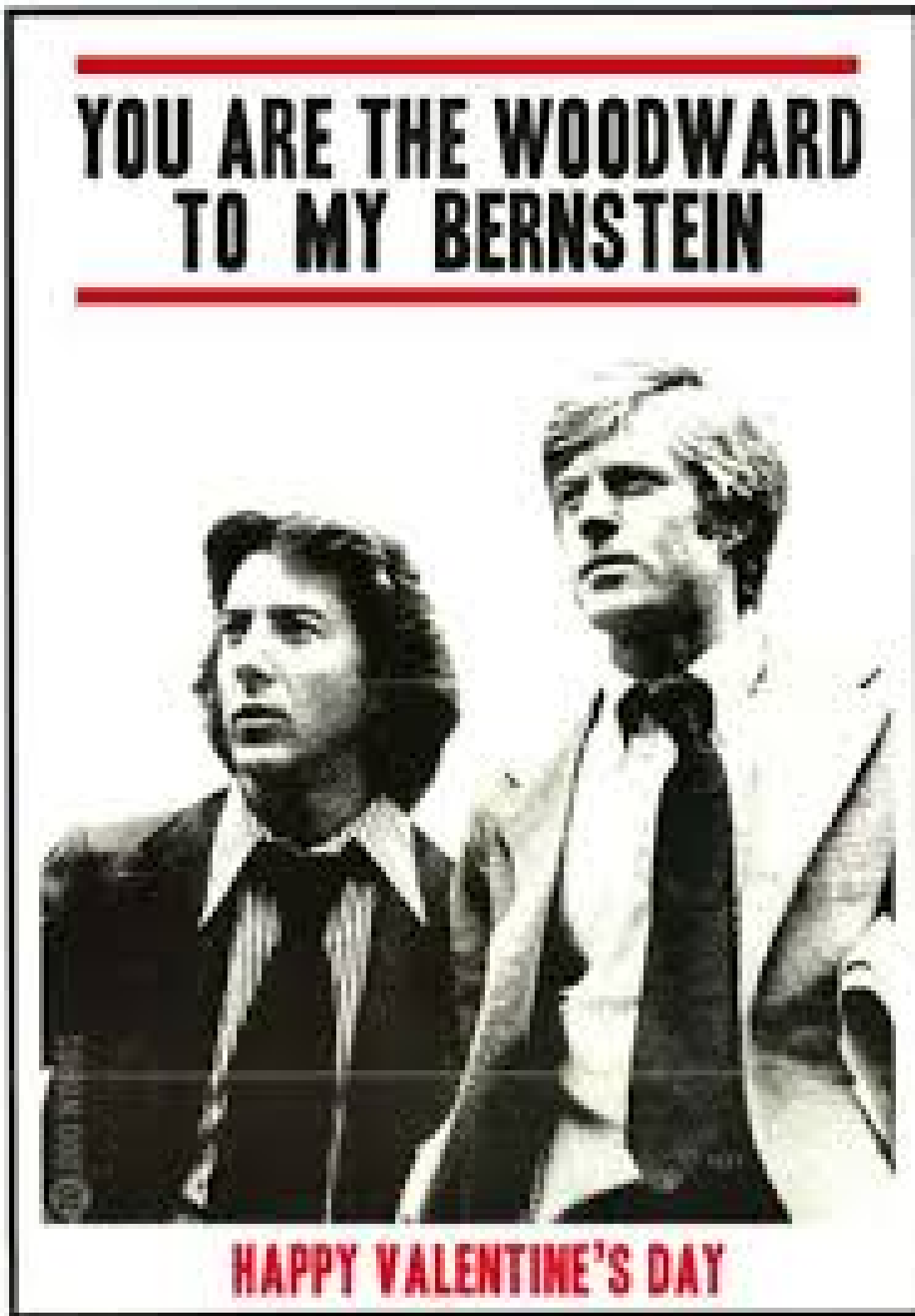
Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India has fallen squarely into this camp, and his actions to suppress freedom of the press are undermining India's proud status as "the world's largest democracy." Since Mr. Modi took office in 2014, journalists have increasingly risked their careers, and their lives, to report what the government doesn't want them to.

India ranks 11th in the "global impunity index" of the Committee to Protect Journalists, a tally of reporters whose deaths remain unsolved, and in the annual press freedom index published by the organization Reporters Without Borders, India fell to 150 in 2022, its lowest-ever rank out of 180 countries. The United States is 42; Russia is just below India at 155, China 175.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

The Final Word





Today in History - Feb. 14, 2023



Missing die to Connecting technical difficulties

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



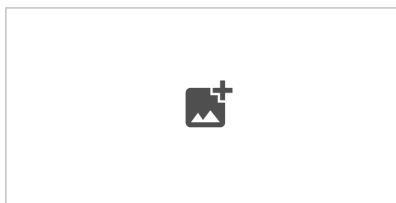
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com



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